

REMARKS**Claim Amendments:**

Claims 1-22 were pending in the present application. Claims 1-11, 17 and 21-22 have been cancelled, without prejudice. New claims 23 and 24 have been added. Thus, upon entry of the present amendment, claims 12-16, 18-20 and 23-24 will be pending in the application.

Any amendments to and/or cancellation of the claims has been done solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution of the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the claims as originally filed in this or a separate application(s). *No new matter has been added to the application.*

Examiner Interview and Advisory Action:

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of the October 3, 2006 telephonic interview during which the outstanding rejections were discussed.

With respect to the Interview Summary, the Examiner notes that “[i]t was not agreed that the phrases ‘linked to the interferon predominantly at a single site on the interferon’ and ‘wherein the conjugate is predominantly a single species;’ have support in the original specification.”

Applicants wish to clarify that, during the interview, Applicants maintained (and still maintain) that the instant specification provides ample support for the foregoing language, notwithstanding that the rejection, the rejected claims have been cancelled, without prejudice, to expedite prosecution.

Allowed Claims

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 12-20 are allowable.

Rejection of Claims 1-11, 21, and 22 Under 35 USC § 112, First Paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-11, 21, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Applicants respectfully traverse the foregoing rejection. However, in the interest of expediting prosecution, and in no way conceding to the validity of the rejection, the rejected claims have been cancelled, without prejudice, rendering the rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allow the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicants believe that no fee is due with this communication. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. PRJ-006CN from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: November 16, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Hathaway P. Russell, Esq.
Registration No.: 46,488
LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP
28 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109
(617) 227-7400
(617) 742-4214 (Fax)
Attorney/Agent For Applicants